

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: IES UTILITIES INC., INTERSTATE POWER COMPANY, and MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. INU-00-5
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ORDER COMMENCING INVESTIGATION AND REQUIRING INFORMATION

(Issued May 19, 2000)

When capacity is potentially tight, as it is in the Midwest region this summer, electric transmission and distribution reliability standards become even more important. Because of increased reliance by some utilities on purchased power, it is critical for the Utilities Board (Board) to know whether reliability is being maintained and whether the type of reliability problems are changing. Therefore, to track customer outage information, the Board will commence an investigation to obtain data on transmission and distribution system reliability from Iowa's three investor-owned utilities, IES Utilities Inc. (IES), Interstate Power Company (Interstate), and MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican). The three investor-owned utilities control the vast majority of Iowa's transmission network.

Various reliability indices are used to monitor the reliability of electric systems. These indices basically provide overall numbers to measure duration and frequency of interruptions and are used to provide average system conditions as well as specific customer conditions. Some of the indices that are currently used in the industry are:

SAIFI - system average interruption frequency index

CAIDI - customer average interruption duration index

SAIDI - system average interruption duration

CAIFI - customer average interruption frequency index

MAIFI - momentary average interruption frequency index

Additional data is required on transmission and distribution outages because the information required to be filed by the Board's outage report rules is not sufficient to perform a comprehensive analysis. 199 IAC 20.2(5)"c." IES, Interstate, and MidAmerican will be required to file the following historical information on or before June 10, 2000:

1. Historical monthly indices for the last five years, including the last five years' monthly measures of SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI, CAIFI and MAIFI (as defined by the 1997, or later, version of IEEE P1366, "Trial Use Guide for Electric Power Distribution Reliability Indices), for the Iowa jurisdiction of each utility. In addition, each utility is to provide a definition and description of any other reliability indices currently tracked for their Iowa jurisdictions as well as the monthly measures of each of these for the last five years.

In addition to historical data, it is important to monitor current conditions. On or before the tenth of each month, beginning July 10, 2000, and ending October 10, 2001, IES, Interstate, and MidAmerican are to file reports for the preceding calendar month that include the following information:

1. A table showing the achieved level of each of the five reliability indices (SAIFI, SAIDI, CAIDI, CAIFI and MAIFI) of each operating area within Iowa for the previous month and a comparison with historical results. A brief explanation of the data and its implications is to be included.

2. An identification of interruptions, exclusive of major events like an extreme storm, that are caused by outside influences such as generation, transmission, or substation outages.

3. An identification of service interruptions that are due solely to the actions or inactions of another utility, another jurisdictional entity, independent system operator, or alternative electric supplier for the annual reporting period.

4. The number and causes of controllable interruptions for the monthly reporting period. Make explicit to what extent these relate to the interruptions discussed in numbers two and three above.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. An investigation is commenced, identified as INU-00-5, to obtain further information on transmission and distribution reliability from Iowa's three investor-owned utilities, IES Utilities Inc., Interstate Power Company, and MidAmerican Energy Company.

2. IES, Interstate, and MidAmerican shall provide the information identified in this order within the time frames contained in this order.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 19th day of May, 2000.